

Labor Resources for Marion, South Carolina

Executive Summary

This profile contains information about the labor force within a 30 minute and 45 minute commuting distance from the center of Marion, South Carolina. Marion is located in Marion County, South Carolina.

The profile examines three issues: labor force characteristics, the availability of labor, and the average wages and salaries in the community of Marion.

Labor Situation at a Glance in Marion, South Carolina

Labor Force Characteristics	within 30 min.	within 45 min.	South Carolina
Population, 2004	84,708	226,400	4,198,068
Labor Force, 2004	40,023	115,142	2,046,179
Availability of Labor	within 30 min.	within 45 min.	South Carolina
Unemployed Workers, 2004	3,578	9,000	139,607
Unemployment Rate, 2004	8.9%	8.4%	6.8%
Workers Affected by Layoffs (Past 2 Years)	402	871	22,196
Average Wages	Marion County	South Carolina	United States
2003 Avg. Weekly Wage	\$456	\$581	\$658

Labor Force Characteristics for Marion, South Carolina

The composition and size of a community's labor force is linked very closely with demographic and economic conditions and trends in the region. The following labor force profile provides basic information on the population base and labor force characteristics so that the reader can better assess labor force conditions in the community.

Labor Force			
	30 min. Drive time	45 min. Drive time	South Carolina
Labor Force 2004	40,023	115,142	2,046,179
Change since 2000	35	7,708	49,079
Population			
Population 2004	84,708	226,400	4,198,068
Change since 2000	3,509	10,199	186,056
Projected 2010	70,226	215,355	4,446,704
Gender Distribution			
Male	41,887	109,918	2,040,261
Female	42,821	116,482	2,132,454
Age Distribution			
Ages 20-34	17,158	45,733	875,330
Ages 35-49	17,771	48,230	925,330
Ages 50-64	15,530	41,778	739,980
20-54 *Prime Working Age	40,848	109,826	2,084,880
Highest Level of Educational Attainment			
High School	26,886	72,241	778,054
Some College	14,783	41,430	500,194
Associate Degree	5,032	13,763	173,428
Bachelors Degree	8,988	25,125	351,526
Post Bachelor	4,545	12,315	178,529

**Prime working age group:*
People between the ages of 18-54 are often referred to as the prime working age group. In staffing a new facility, prudent managers often prefer to staff its production work force with workers whose ages form a normal distribution curve. This provides for stability, flexibility and continuity of knowledge.

Source: 2004 Estimates Based on 2000 U.S. Census of Population and
Woods and Poole, 2003 Edition

Employment Characteristics for Marion, South Carolina

Total Employment			
Year	30 min. Drive time	45 min. Drive time	South Carolina
2004	36,446	106,142	1,906,571

Total Employment data include all full and part-time wage and salaried workers in the area. These people may or may not reside in the area.

Monthly Employment by Sector In Marion County			
Sector	30 min. Drive time	45 min. Drive time	South Carolina
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	175	397	12,379
Mining	15	46	1,603
Utilities	51	166	11,891
Construction	1,658	5,186	111,730
Manufacturing	5,330	13,706	275,573
Wood product manufacturing	184	562	8,371
Nonmetallic mineral product manufacturing	45	156	9,155
Primary metal manufacturing		142	6,317
Fabricated metal product manufacturing	243	983	27,357
Machinery manufacturing	141	611	21,278
Computer and electronic product manufacturing			7,666
Electrical equipment and appliance mfg.			10,748
Transportation equipment manufacturing	752	1,081	30,932
Furniture and related product manufacturing	21	66	4,225
Miscellaneous manufacturing	16	50	7,846
Food manufacturing	103	459	17,832
Beverage and tobacco product manufacturing			1,445
Textile mills	555	1,018	40,207
Textile product mills	57	256	9,724
Apparel manufacturing	440	615	5,321
Paper manufacturing	84	829	14,710
Printing and related support activities	64	168	7,327
Petroleum and coal products manufacturing			288
Chemical manufacturing	208	928	21,659
Plastics and rubber products manufacturing	31	140	23,054
Wholesale Trade	738	2,426	62,523
Retail Trade	4,966	13,769	224,031
Transportation and Warehousing	298	1,184	46,941
Education and Health Services	5,269	15,083	156,232
Leisure and Hospitality	5,156	14,950	192,748
Professional and Business Services	1,580	5,295	186,481

Source: 2003 Covered Wages, SC Employment Securities Commission

Largest Industries by Total Employment In Marion County				
Company Name	City	Primary Product/Service	Employment	Date Est.
Blumenthal Mills Inc	Marion	Upholstery fabric & mattress ticking	770	1975
Arvin Meritor	Marion	Gas lift supports	734	1967
Beneteau USA	Marion	Luxury sailing yachts	245	1986
Precision Southeast Inc	Marion	Plastic parts molding & assembly	210	1981
SOPAKO Packaging	Mullins	Military food rations	200	1965
Datwyler Rubber & Plastics Inc	Marion	Plastic & rubber moldings	143	1996
SLI Lighting Product Inc	Mullins	Incandescent light bulbs	105	1998
Precision Southeast Inc	Marion	Plastic injection molded products	102	1981
Marion Ceramics Inc	Marion	Brick tile	65	1885
Road Rescue	Marion	Ambulances	65	2001
Vernay Laboratories	Marion	Elastomeric components, automotive check valves	60	1997
American Light Bulb Co	Mullins	Light bulbs	39	2001
New South Lumber Co	Marion	Finger jointed studs	38	1994
Southeastern Millwork Inc(SEMCO)	Mullins	Steel doors	38	1980
Lane Wood Products Inc	Marion	Skids	37	1968
Trophy Timber Products Inc	Mullins	Sawmills	25	2002
Marion Star & Mullins Enterprise	Marion	Newspapers	12	1846
DiHoMa Chemical Manufacturing Inc	Mullins	Industrial & Pharmaceutical chemicals	11	1979
KL Industries Inc	Marion	Coil & wire springs	10	1996
Southbay Fabricators	Marion	Plastic pouches	10	1995

Employer-Employee Relationship

Employer-employee relations in South Carolina are very stable and the state consistently ranks as one of the least unionized in the nation. In 2004, only 4.5 percent of the state's workers were members of a labor union. Additionally, the state has consistently had one of the lowest work stoppage rates in the United States. On average, less than .01 percent of working time was lost due to strikes in manufacturing and non-manufacturing industries combined.

Availability of Labor

Labor Force Participation & Unemployment

Labor Force Participation & Unemployment			
Year	30 min. Drive time	45 min. Drive time	South Carolina
Labor Force (2004)	40,023	115,142	2,046,179
Labor Force Change from 2000	35	7,708	49,079
Labor Force Participation Rate	47%	51%	49%
Unemployment (2004)	3,578	9,000	139,607
Unemployment Rate	8.9%	8.4%	6.8%

The *labor force participation* rate is the percentage which results from dividing the labor force count by the total population.

Unemployment reflects the total number of persons who do not have a job and are actively seeking employment.

Other Potential Sources of Labor Supply

Total Jobs Lost Due to Mass Closings and Layoffs Past Two Years			
Sector	30 min. Drive time	45 min. Drive time	South Carolina
Total	402	871	22,196
Manufacturing	395	852	19,196
Distribution	-	-	1,213
Service	7	20	1,745
Other	-	-	42

Recent closings and layoffs are a rich source of skilled and experienced labor for companies seeking to locate or expand in a given area. Industries in which layoffs and closings occur can provide some indication of the skills and knowledge-base of many unemployed and underemployed workers in a region.

Commuters to Other Areas			
	30 min. Drive time	45 min. Drive time	South Carolina
Commuters to other areas	7,130	18,180	31,833

Source: 2000 U.S. Census of Population

Workers commuting to places outside their resident are a significant source of experienced labor for new and expanding industries. These workers may be willing to consider an opportunity for employment nearer their place of residence.

Recent Graduates of South Carolina's Colleges and Universities

Certificates/Degrees Conferred From Technical Colleges in Select Degrees Within 45 Minute Drive Time of Marion County, SC	
Degree Area	Two Year Certificates/Degrees Conferred 2002 - 2004
Computer and Information Sciences (Total)	50
Data Processing Technology	42
Engineering Technologies (Total)	48
Electrical ,Electronic & Communications	24
Mechanical Engineering/Tech	*
Mechanic & Repair Technologies (Total)	122
Industrial Electronics	15
HVAC	56
Precision Production (Total)	71
Machine Tool Technology/Machinist	28

Graduation From South Carolina's Four Year Colleges and Universities In Select Degrees		
	Degrees Conferred (2002-2004)	
	Bachelors	Post- Grad
Computer and Information Science (Total)	910	108
Computer Engineering	150	149
Computer Programming	12	5
Engineering & Related Technologies (Total)	1,316	786
Chemical Engineering	136	38
Electrical Engineering	257	150
Industrial Engineering	78	44
Mechanical Engineering	268	95
Business Admin & Management	4,754	1,018
International Business/Trade	178	276

Source: South Carolina Commission on Higher Education

Wages and Salaries

Average Wage and Salary Comparison			
Sector	Marion County	South Carolina	United States
Avg. Weekly Wages*	\$456	\$581	\$658
Avg. Annual Salary*	\$23,687	\$30,240	\$37,508
Avg. Hourly Prod. Wages**	N/A	\$14.73	\$16.14

*Covered Wages and Employment, 2003, SC Employment Securities Commission

** Employment & Earnings, 2004, U.S. Department of Labor

Average Annual Salary Manufacturing Sectors, 2004		
Sector	Marion County	South Carolina
Manufacturing Total	\$28,483	\$39,027
Wood product	\$21,487	\$30,808
Nonmetallic mineral product	***	\$39,031
Primary metal	***	\$49,695
Fabricated metal product	***	\$37,533
Machinery	***	\$39,952
Computer and electronic product	***	\$40,186
Electrical equipment and appliance	***	\$40,178
Transportation equipment	\$30,071	\$44,099
Furniture and related product	***	\$27,907
Miscellaneous	***	\$34,350
Food	***	\$26,620
Beverage and tobacco product	***	\$35,765
Textile mills	***	\$31,898
Textile product mills	***	\$25,618
Apparel	\$25,151	\$23,705
Paper	***	\$55,139
Printing and related support activities	***	\$36,634
Petroleum and coal products	***	\$49,113
Chemical	***	\$50,870
Plastics and rubber products	***	\$46,620

***Indicates data suppressed

Source: Covered Wages and Employment, SC Employment Securities Commission

Occupational Wages In Marion and Surrounding Area

Average Hourly Wages of Employees by Selected Non-Exempt Occupations For Marion Area			
Non-Exempt Occupations	Entry	Average	Experienced
Assemblers and Fabricators	\$9.48	\$10.89	\$12.74
Butchers and Meat Cutters	\$7.89	\$10.36	\$12.02
Cabinetmakers and Bench Carpenters	\$7.64	\$8.94	\$10.09
Chemical Equipment Operators	\$12.98	\$15.86	\$18.72
Chemical Plant & System Operators	*	*	*
Electrical & Electronic Equip Tenders	*	*	*
Extruding & Forming Machine Setters	\$14.36	\$14.94	\$16.54
Grinding & Lapping Machine Operators	\$11.97	\$13.87	\$16.17
Logging Equipment Operators	\$9.85	\$12.91	\$14.03
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	\$10.34	\$13.60	\$16.21
Machine Tool Setters & Tenders	\$11.88	\$13.55	\$15.51
Industrial Machinery Mechanics	\$12.30	\$14.66	\$16.28
Machinists	\$12.92	\$14.77	\$16.80
Packaging & Filling Machine Op	\$8.10	\$10.40	\$12.29
Molding & Casting Machine Op	\$13.52	\$15.45	\$17.26
Sewing Machine Operators	\$6.80	\$8.12	\$9.54
Textile, Cutting Machine Operators	\$8.37	\$9.75	\$10.94
Truck Drivers, Heavy & Tractor-Trailer	\$11.45	\$15.43	\$19.46
Welders, Cutters & Solderers	\$10.32	\$12.29	\$13.38
Woodworking Machine Setters	*	*	*
Average Salary of Employees by Selected Exempt Occupations For Marion Area*			
Exempt Occupations	Entry	Average	Experienced
Chemical Engineers	\$47,280	\$61,580	\$77,780
Computer Programmers	\$28,640	\$41,560	\$53,660
Engineers, NEC	*	*	*
First Line Production Man & Sup	\$30,260	\$39,300	\$46,220
Industrial Engineers	\$38,520	\$49,500	\$59,320
Mechanical Engineers	\$47,000	\$55,160	\$64,000

Source: *Occupational Wage Survey*, SC Employment Security Commission

* Indicates Suppressed Data or Data Not Available